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Miss Etta Spier, Professor of Rural Education at the North Carolina College for Women, very successfully and convincingly argued the part that the college should do in rural teacher preparation, particularly emphasizing the need for specialized training for rural teachers, the training of high school rural training teachers, and the preparation of rural supervisors.

Mr. McBrien, after paying a great tribute to Dr. Joyner and Dr. Brooks, made a strong plea for the following: a 160-day school year, adequate preparation of rural teachers, consolidation of one-teacher schools, a county library at the center of the county, schools as community centers, high school education for all without severing home ties, federal aid for education, and the elimination of illiteracy. He said that of the 210,000 one-teacher, one-room schools in the United States fully two-thirds can be consolidated, that it is time to quit the eternal sinning against the farm boy and girl in length of school term and quality of teaching, and that there is no use to boast of the romance and delight of country life as long as the school house and the teacher are on a par with the wooden plow.

In the afternoon session Superintendent George Howard of Edgecombe County described some of his work in consolidation and emphasized the importance of the zeal of the teacher for the awakening of the community and the work of the school, and in teacher preparation the necessity of close touch with real rural problems and conditions.

An unexpected visit from Dr. Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education, induced the conference to set aside the regular procedure and program and invite him to address them. Reminiscences in North Carolina education, pointing the way to the understanding of present conditions and future progress, made those in attendance eager for more. In regard to changed opinions and progress in education, Dr. Claxton referred to the first suggestion of a ten-cent tax for education, to the first mention of compulsory attendance, especially for negroes, to the twenty-four day school year only twenty years ago, and to salaries still lower than present-day low salaries, illustrating the last by the fact that in the past three years the \$580 average increase in the pay of railroad hands is as much as the average teacher's salary in the United States. Among the very many timely things were these: we no longer educate for leisure; education must be vocational and it is not education until it is vocational; we must not educate simply good working cattle; patriotism looks to the future, not only to the present, and there is safety in education; we must do more than the elementary school, we have to face universal high school education; the farm needs the

best and most varied training of all the vocations, people leave the farm because they do not know enough about it to stay.

Miss Carney closed the conference with her best appeal for definite training of rural supervisors and teachers. She very justly said that if the compulsory school law is to be enforced, the school to which the child is compelled to go must be made worth while. This means teacher training. She outlined the following tentative program for North Carolina:

1. More state normal schools.
2. Special departments of rural education in colleges.
3. Temporary rural teacher-training agencies.
 - a. High schools with state aid and supervision.
 - b. Summer schools.
4. Limit teachers prepared by these agencies to rural teaching by means of certification.

The conference sends out a message and call to the high schools of the state to meet a great need. It suggests the creation of a new chair in the high school faculty, the rural teacher teacher. Two very definite things seemed to have been achieved by the conference:

1. The outlining of a constructive policy for rural teacher training.
2. The bringing together and making it possible for agencies to federate for the improvement of country life.

DURHAM HIGH SCHOOL WINS THE STATE-WIDE DEBATE

THE seventh annual debate of the North Carolina Debating Union was won by the Durham High School in the finals held at Chapel Hill on the evening of May 2. The young debaters who won this distinguished honor for Durham were Miss Aura Holton and Mr. Leo Brady who defended the negative side of the query: "Resolved, That the United States should adopt a policy of requiring one year of military training of all able-bodied men before they reach the age of twenty-one." The affirmative side of the question was upheld by Miss Sudie Creech and Mr. William Hosea of the Goldsboro High School. The debate was one of the best that the Union has ever had. Both sides handled the question with marked ability and skill. Congratulations to the debaters of the Durham High School on their victory over such able and worthy opponents.

The University of North Carolina Summer School is expecting you next month.